

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-24 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1, 9, 10 and 14 are amended to more clearly identify selected patentable subject matter. None of these amendments pertain to new matter. Specifically, support for the amendments may be found in the specification and drawings as well as in the original claim set. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and remarks made herein.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,880,795 to *Nagata et al.* ("*Nagata*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,034,751 to *Kamiya* ("*Kamiya*"). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Nagata describes a liquid crystal display module including a first substrate with at least two sides extending outwardly over the corresponding edges of a second substrate. The first and second substrates are fixed together using an adhesive.

Miyamoto describes an LCD panel braced by a retaining member.

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly include the limitation of "a thermal support layer ... arranged between the liquid crystal cell and the containment structure enabling the liquid crystal cell to float on the thermal support layer". This feature is entirely absent from the cited art. The closest analog is heat dissipation sheet 36 of *Nagata*. However, such a sheet 36 does not provide a floating suspension of the liquid crystal above the substrate as required by the invention. Nor does *Nagata* suggest the advantages of such a floating suspension. The same can be said of *Kamiya*. Accordingly, the cited art fails to teach all of the limitations of Claim 1. As such, the cited references are insufficient to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness as to Claim 1. As a consequence, no obviousness rejection is supported by the cited art and it is therefore requested that the rejection of Claim 1 be withdrawn for at least this reason. Moreover, the same can be said for dependent Claims 1-13 (Claims 9 & 10 being amended to be consonant with amended Claim 1). Thus, the applicants respectfully request that the rejections of Claims 1-13 be withdrawn and allowed to issue.

Claim 14 has been amended to more clearly include the limitation of "disposing the liquid crystal cell upon the thermal support layer so that the liquid crystal cell floats on the thermal support layer". As with Claim 1 above, this feature is entirely absent from the cited art. Neither *Nagata* nor *Kamiya* teach or suggest the claimed limitation of a floating suspension system. As a result, the cited art fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness as to Claim 14. As a consequence, the cited art is deficient in failing to establish a valid obviousness rejection. Therefore, the applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 1 be withdrawn. Moreover, the same can be said for dependent Claims 15-21. Thus, the applicants respectfully request that the rejections of Claims 14-21 be withdrawn and allowed to issue.

Additionally, the cited art fails to teach all of the limitations of Claims 22-24. For example, in Claim 22, the cited references fail to teach or suggest "a plurality of spaced apart stabilizers arranged to couple edge portions of the liquid crystal cell to the containment structure *without adhering the bottom surface of the liquid crystal cell to the bottom surface of the containment structure, the stabilizers being sufficiently compliant such that they do not induce substantial stresses in the LCD assembly.* (emphasis added)" The "stabilizers" 4 of *Kamiya* clearly engage the bottom (See, 4aa, for example) of the LCD panel 1. Nor is there any teaching or suggestion that the *Kamiya* retaining members 4a are "compliant" as required by the claims. Accordingly, the cited art fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness as to Claim 22. Therefore, the applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 22 be withdrawn. Moreover, the same can be said for dependent Claims 23 and 24 which are also believed to be allowable for other reasons. For example, Claim 23 recites "support material arranged to support the liquid crystal cell in a floating manner within the containment structure". No such floating arrangement is taught or suggested by the cited art. Nor is a thermal grease suggested (Claim 24).

Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request that the pending rejections of Claims 1-24 be withdrawn and these claims be allowed.

Conclusion

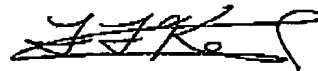
The amendments and remarks made herein are believed to overcome all pending grounds for rejection. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully submit that all issues in the Office Action have been addressed. Also, the applicants request withdrawal of all pending rejections. Applicants believe that this application is in condition for allowance, and accordingly request reconsideration and prompt passage to issuance. The applicants wish to mention that any lack of response to any of the issues raised by the Examiner is not an admission by the applicant as to the accuracy of the Examiner's assertions with respect to such issues. Moreover, applicants specifically reserve the right to respond to such issues at a later time during the prosecution of the present application, should such a need arise. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are allowable and that this case is now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the applicants' representative to discuss any matters pertaining to this case. Should the Examiner wish to contact the undersigned for any reason, the telephone number set out below can be used.

Additionally, if any fees are due in connection with the filing of this Amendment, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fees from the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0388 (Order No. NSC1P127).

Respectfully submitted,

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